Non-Provision of Education to Girls

2068. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that non-provision of compulsory education for the girl child is at the root of many ills like child labour and child prostitution in the country;

(b) if so, what remedial action Government have taken so far in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to provide penal provision for those who do not send their daughters to schools; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education, 1986 lays special emphasis on girls education and recommends removal of all obstacles inhibiting their access to and retention in elementry education.

All States have exempted girls from payment of tuition fees upto class VIII. Other measures for promotion of girls education include provision of scholarships, free text books, uniforms, attendance incentives, separate girls' schools, construction of toilets for girls and appointment of women teachers in primary schools. Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Non-Formal Education, central assistance provided for girls' centres is 90% as compared to 60% for co-education centres. The proportion of girls, centres has been increased from 25% to 40% in the Eighth Plan.

The introduction of Mid-day Meal Scheme in 1995-96 is also expected to have a positive effect on enrolment and retention of girls in primary schools.

Internationally assisted projects for universalisation of elementary education have specific components for promotion of girls education.

The efforts made in this direction have resulted in narrowing of the gender gap in drop out rates in class I-V.

(c) and (d) Legislation for compulsory primary education enacted by 14 States and 4 UTs provide inter-alia for punishment of parents who do not send their children to school. However it has not been possible to give effect to such penal provisions due to various socio-economic, cultural and administrative constraints.

Education For All

2069. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister for HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have a proposal to provide Educaiton for All (EFA);

(b) if so, the steps taken to achieve the EFA objectives;

(c) the target date fixed for the proposal;

(d) the assistance granted by the Central Government during the last three years to various States to achieve the objective for providing education for all; and

(e) the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Several measures are proposed to be taken to meet the goal of Education For All. Allocation to Education sector would be enhanced from the present leval of about 3.7% of GDP of 6% by the turn of the century. Elementary education and adult educaiton, which are principal components for Education for All, would continue to be priority areas. Several schemes and programmes to realise the goal of Universalisation of

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